ing to Rs. 165.2 crores during the project period (IDBI's portion was later shifted to SIDBI).

(d) No general conclusion as such is possible. Under the National Sericulture Project credit targets have been exceeded in the case of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and are likely to be reached in the case of Tamil Nadu. Credit flow has however been less in West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Pilot States.

(e) The major steps being taken in this regard are as under:

(1) Organization of credit camps at block level by the Departments of Sericulture in the concerned States.

(2) Organization of banker awareness programmes by Central Silk Board.

(3) NABARD has constituted Regional Unit Cost Committees for revising the unit costs periodically.

(4) Attempts by Departments of Sericulture for linking sericulture practitioners with the programmes of IRDP, JRY, PMRY and Special Component Plan.

(5) Introduction by NABARD of a newly computerized service area monitoring information system to keep track of assistance in sericulture sector.

Closure of Spinning Mills

2371. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of spinning mills which have been closed down in the wake of liberalisation measures during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) whether any attempt was made by Government to revive them before they were finally closed down?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As on 31.1.95, 102 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were temporarily closed mainly due to financial difficulties, labour problem etc. No mill is closed under I.D. Act, 29 mills were closed under official liquidation.

(b) Government has set up a Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages in respect of viable sick/ closed textile mills. Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme (TMFS) was created to take care of the modernisation need of textile industry.

Price of Cotton for textiles industry

2372. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would ensure a fair price for cotton for use in textile industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that more attractive prices are needed to increase domestic production of cotton for the textile industry;

(c) whether there will be no objection for export of cotton to increase farmers profits; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The prices of cotton follow market trends and are not regulated by the Government.

(b) Domestic production of cotton is dependent on a variety of factors including area under cotton irrigation, quality of cotton seeds and use of pesticides etc. The cotton growers are at present getting attractive prices as currently the market prices of cotton are rulling more than 100% above the Minimum Support Price in case of most varieties of cotton.

(c) to (d) The Government has been permitting export of cotton in persuance of a long term policy on cotton exports.

Export of Textiles

2373. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the indigenous production and export of textiles during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that cotton is being made available to the industrialists at the cost of farmers in order to compete in the world market; and

(c) whether Government would provide cotton to the industry by importing from outside and allow the farmers to process their own produce for export?